

Wastewater Operator Certification Program Advisory Committee

Meeting Summary

November 12, 2003

Attendees included: Todd Carlson, Holly Fuller, Russ Glaser, Tammie McClure, Doug Miller, Jill Parker, Tim Pelton, Don Proctor, John Schoening, Janice Sedlak

Welcome & Introductions

Welcomed:

Holly Fuller

Group III Operator with the City of Centralia

Reviewed and accepted the agenda and the April 2003 summary of the committee meeting.

Committee Membership

The membership terms of Russ Glaser expires December 2003. Tammie has asked Russ to continue as a member of the Advisory Committee and he has agreed. Holly Fuller has taken and passed the Group III exam. So although she started as a Group II representative, she will complete her term as a Group III representative.

The committee membership still needs to fill two openings for Group I operators (one from the Eastern part of the state and one from the Western part of the state) and one opening for a Group II (from the Eastern part of the state). It has been very difficult to fill committee member openings. It is the committees feeling that it is better to have operator representation at any level than to leave openings unfilled. The committee recommendation from the April 2003 meeting was that if we are unable to recruit any Group I operators that would be able to participate on the committee that we should attempt to get more Group II operators to fill the openings. If that fails then we will need to fill the openings with other interested operators.

Doug Miller has agreed to chair the next meeting scheduled for April 7, 2004 (first Wednesday of April). The meeting after that is scheduled for November 10, 2004 (second Wednesday of November).

Professional Growth

Report:

There are currently 1,943 active operators. Of those 1,610 have a professional growth end date of December 31, 2003

Of those operators with a professional growth end date of 12-03

- Approximately 1,137 have not yet documented meeting their professional requirement.

The committee has recommended that the Operator Certification Program make a concerted effort to make the individual operator's professional growth record available on the website.

This would not only save on phone calls to the Operator Certification Coordinator, but it would significantly improve our service to the operators.

Exams

Report:

June 2003 exam statistics –

Grp OIT/I	46 examinees	78% passed
Grp II	23 examinees	74% passed
Grp III	19 examinees	53% passed
Grp IV	7 examinees	71% passed

October 2003 exam statistics

Grp OIT/I	29 examinees	90% passed
Grp II	15 examinees	93% passed
Grp III	22 examinees	68% passed
Grp IV	12 examinees	67% passed

Todd Carlson suggested that the exam statistics be posted on the Operator Certification website and the committee agreed. Tammie will post those statistics during the next update of the website.

Program Policies

A draft committee recommendation/policy was presented to the committee for input and finalization. The recommendation/policy was adopted with one minor change. The recommendation/policy is attached. This recommendation will be posted on the website, in the operator certification program policies, and published in this year's Operator Update.

Roundtable

Jill Parker asked if there was any response from ABC regarding the letter she sent them providing suggested changes to the ABC Formula/Conversion Sheet. Tammie McClure had not received a response, but will follow-up with Suzanne DelaCruz, ABC's exam specialist.

Tammie McClure asked for suggested topics for this year's Operator Update newsletter. This publication is scheduled to go out annually with the annual renewal notices in late October. Due to workload constraints and a lack of resources, the newsletter will have to go out later. The goal would be to get it out by the end of this year. Some of the suggestions included:

- List of PNCWA Section Presidents with contact information.
- The Committee's Professional Growth Recommendation.
- Advertisement of the Operator Certification Website.
- Publish the average exam statistics for the year.

- Provide a forum for an operator's perspective (in this case regarding the need for training – take the professional growth requirement seriously)

Association of Boards of Certification (ABC) Exam Review

ABC asked Tammie to put together a group of subject experts to review questions for the ABC Group III exam. Tammie asked that all Group III operators on the committee stay to review the exam questions. Reviewers from the committee included: Russ Glaser, Holly Fuller, Doug Miller, and John Schoening. Tammie also asked Carl Jones, a Group III operator employed by the Department of Ecology to do a review.

Next Meeting

Doug Miller has agreed to chair the next meeting scheduled for April 7, 2004 in Eastern Washington. The meeting after that is scheduled for November 10, 2004 in Lacey.